

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for collecting and communicating information related to validity of a patent over a global information network, including the steps of soliciting bounty hunters via a global information network for prior art related to validity of the patent, receiving substantive  
5 information related to the validity of the patent from at least one of the bounty hunters in response to the solicitation, sanitizing the substantive information to remove indicia of source, and, submitting sanitized substantive information to a bounty offeror.